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AGREEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED — JPL Deputy Director Dr. Peter T. Lyman, left, and Pasadena Mayor William "Bill" Thompson raise a toast with pure water to the significant agreement reached recently between the City and JPL on treatment of the City's contaminated drinking water.

JPL check significantly aids Pasadena 'clean water' quest

JPL has presented the City of Pasadena with \$1.125 million in connection with contamination of four water wells near the Lab. This will help pay the city's past costs incurred by the contamination and is a first payment toward installation of a temporary treatment plant to decontaminate water from those wells.

The check was presented to Pasadena Mayor Bill Thompson by Deputy Director Dr. Peter T. Lyman in a brief ceremony here on March 7 attended by key members of JPL management who had been involved in the negotiations, as well as by other officials of the City of Pasadena.

A flat cake, decorated with a representation of the City Hall, also depicted a water treatment plant with clean, clear water gushing from it.

Pure water cascaded over a miniature but ornate silver fountain.

To symbolize the occasion, Thompson and Lyman filled champagne glasses from the fountain and raised a toast with pure drinking water.

In his remarks, Mayor Thompson underscored JPL's "good citizen" role in negotiating with the city and in seeking remedies to a critical condition.

The check represented part of more than \$3 million JPL will pay the city over three years under terms of the recently negotiated agreement.

Contamination by volatile organic chemicals was found in the city's water wells in the early 1980s.

The city has taken the position that JPL was the source of the contamination, believed to have occurred during the 1940s and 1950s as the result of disposition of solvents and other cleaning materials while JPL was a U.S. Army ballistic missile facility.

JPL has not accepted liability for the contamination but has worked with the city to build an appropriate plant and has agreed to contribute significantly to its costs.

The temporary treatment plant should deal with the contamination problem for at least three to five years. Negotiations concerning a long term solution will be postponed until the temporary plant has been demonstrated.

The plan gives Pasadena and

JPL time to learn more about the contamination and JPL's responsibility, and will avoid having to design a permanent plant while the problems are not yet fully understood.

The treatment plant agreement between JPL and the city will permit the affected wells to be returned to service and provide safe water to the community.